SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, my second supplementary is: Is there any plan to involve corporates to adopt wasteland as they do parks in cities? If ' yes', how many, and which major corporates have adopted the wasteland? Is it true that Punjab is facing a severe crisis of wasteland with agriculture soil depleting fast due to salinity caused by excessive irrigation? Is it also true that it has caused a massive socio-economic crisis in Hoshiarpur District of the State? What steps is the Government taking to redress the problem?

श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह: सभापति महोदय, अभी तक एरिया डवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम में इंटेग्रेटेड वेस्ट लेंड प्रोग्रम, ड्रॉट प्रोन एरिया प्रोग्राम और डजर्ट डवलपमेंट प्रोगाम, ये तीन प्रोग्राम हैं, जो हरियाली नाम से संचालित हैं और उसी के अधीन हम वेस्ट लेंड को कल्टीवेबल लेंड बनाने की कार्रवाई कर रहे हैं। अगर इसमें किसी कारपोरेट सेक्टर के लोग आगे आना चाहें, तो उनका स्वागत है, लेकिन अभी तक कारपोरेट सेक्टर की तरफ से इस तरह का प्रयास नहीं हुआ है।

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया: सर, इनीसिएटिव तो आपको लेना पड़ेगा। आप प्रोग्राम बनाएंगे, तब तो लोग भी आएंगे।

श्री रघुवंश सिंह: हमारा प्रोग्राम बना हुआ है। हम उसको लागू कर रहे हैं, लेकिन कारपोरेट के लोग तो अपने लाभ के लिए करते हैं। परोपकार के लिए अगर कहीं कोई कारपोरेट हो, तो हम उसका स्वागत करेंगे। ....(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: श्री कृष्णा मूर्ति। (*व्यवधान)*....नैक्स्ट क्वैश्चन नंबर 407. ....(*व्यवधान)*

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सभापति जी, हमें पूछना है। यह बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट क्वैश्चन है।

श्री सभापति: नहीं, आगे भी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण क्वैश्चन हैं। ये मैम्बर्स ने दिए हैं, मेरे क्वैश्चन नहीं हैं। ....(*व्यवधान)* ...नहीं ठीक है .....(व्यवधान) महाराष्ट्र में तो सबसे ज्यादा खेती हो रही है। क्वैश्चन नंबर 407.

Import of agricultural produce

*407. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural produce imported during the last three years showing the countries from where they were imported;

(b) whether the imported agricultural produce is used for domestic consumption or for processing and export or both;

(c) details of concessions, if any, provided to importers during this period; and

(d) the steps taken to bring down the import of agricultural produce?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The ITC (HS)'s chapter-wise details of agricultural produce imported during the last three years are as under:

Import of Agricultural Produce

(Value in Rs. lakhs)

Commodity	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4
Live animals	364.99	344.57	416.4
Meat and edible meat offal.	37.02	16.94	130.54
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other Aquatic invertabrates.	3,943.22	5,171.93	6,375.72
Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible prod. of animal origin, not elsewhere spec. or included.	8,469.22	13,307.41	6,628.26
Products of animals origin, not elsewhere specified or included.	6,688.80	5,015.30	4,674.69
Live trees and other plants; bulbs; roots and the like; cut flowers and ornamental foliage.	1,127.58	900.89	1,119.36
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers.	304,998.67	262,217.44	197,514.50
Edible fruit and nuts; peel or citrus fruit or melons.	188,396.45	217,492.97	283,316.88
Coffee, tea, mate and spices.	58,784.27	52,122.39	61,862.36
Cereals.	176.11	238.93	613.05
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten.	1,951.07	2,841.94	3,667.82
Oil seeds and olea, fruits; misc. grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder.	18,473.21	21,294.37	24,590.15
Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts.	13,578.40	15,737.24	20,374.43

1	2	3	4
Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included.	734.68	788.11	1,086.30
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; pre. edible fats; animal or vegetable waxex.	905,235.62	1,186,859.00	1,117,977.70
Preparations of meat, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates.	206.89	199.51	364.08
Sugars and sugar confectionery.	8,733.68	14,550.38	130,747.88
Cocoa and cocoa preparations.	7,047.68	6,121.17	9,209.42
Preparations of cereals, flour, starch of milk; pastrycooks products.	11,616.21	8,560.33	10,866.87
Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants.	7,009.65	7,850.65	8,050.15
Miscellaneous edible preparations.	16,202.72	6,645.41	7,293.14
Beverages, Spirits and vinegar.	10,048.67	13,771.43	75,328.65
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder.	28,263.25	34,850.41	35,547.55
Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes.	4,249.61	5,693.67	10,823.86
TOTAL:	1606337.67	1882592.39	2018579.76

The Country-wise details are given in the publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India, Volume-II (Imports) Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the library of the Parliament.

(b) The agricultural produce is imported for domestic consumption as well as for re-export after processing and adding value to it.

(c) & (d) During the last three years, customs duty has been reduced on the following agricultural items:

Item	From	To
(a) Cloves	70%	35%
(b) Oleo pine resin	10%	5%
(c) Alpha pinene	15%/20%	5%

Customs duty on the following agricultural items has been increased since 2002-03 to curb imports:

Item	From	To
(a) Tea and Coffee	70%	100%
(b) Spices (Pepper & cardamom)	35%	70%
(c) Pulses	5%	10%
(d) Cut flowers including orchids	30%	60%
(e) Palm oils (other than crude)	75%	90%
(f) Crude palm oil	65%	80%
(g) Cotton	5%	10%

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Sir, it is stated in the reply given by the hon. Minister that the customs duty on many agricultural items has been increased since 2002-2003 to curb imports, but the value of import of agricultural produce has gone up from Rs. 16,000 crores to Rs. 30,000 crores in 2004-05. Will the hon. Minister state the reasons for this increasing trend in imports in spite of the curbs imposed?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, curbs are not imposed on every thing. You look at the items where the imports are substantially going up. In the case of cashew-nuts they are imported, processed and sent out. So, it is not merely a question of net import. The question is that cashewnuts are imported. It has gone up substantially. Then imports of almonds and fruits have gone up. What we must recognise is that in our import basket the largest amount of import is of edible oils. The edible oils represent the largest figure. The figure looks very large. But I must say that the customs duty has not gone up on every thing. The customs duty was changed on certain items, seven or eight items. But there are items where the consumption is going up and where imports are increasing; and import is not necessarily something which is damaging. The question is what kind of imports these are. So, saying that the customs duty regulates the quantum of exports is not correct. The customs duty merely acts as a tariff barrier for protection of local industry.

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Sir, in addition to allowed imports, many items like cardamom, pepper, clove, etc., are reaching the Indian markets

as the producers are Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. They are not produced in this country. What steps has the Government taken to stop such illegal dumping of spices in the Indian market to safeguard the interest of our growers?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the hon. Member is right that there had been some cases of swish trade where the items had come in through countries with which we have trade agreements. We have taken up this issue with those countries and this is our first experience. For example, in the case of Sri Lanka, it was the first experience of trade agreement. Despite the rules of origin, both Sri Lanka and our Government are concerned about swish trade. Certain imports of this kind did take place. The Government is seized of the matter and we are ensuring that steps are taken so that our industry and plantations do not suffer.

SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Sir, the Minister in his reply has said that the customs duty on some agricultural items has been increased since 2002-03. In spite of that, what is the reason for the drastic fall in the price of domestic cardamom?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the price of domestic cardamom is also dictated by the international place. We have to see how much increase in the international production of cardamom is taking place. Now, the cardamom price is also dictated by the international price. We find that some other countries are producing a very substantial amount of cardamom. If you look at the growth of production in other countries, you will find that there has been a substantial increase in production and that also is putting pressure on domestic price.

PROF. P. J. KURIAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the customs duty on tea has been increased from 70 per cent to 100 per cent in the last three years. But the fact of the matter is that tea estates in Kerala are closed because the estates are running on loss.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would like to further increase the customs duty on tea and also take other measures so that the tea estates which are closed in Kerala will be reopened for the benefit of the State, the nation and the workers who are working there.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the problem of tea industry, both in Kerala and elsewhere, is not because of tea imports or customs duty. It is a completely different problem because of the fall in international prices. We know that Vietnam, Sir Lanka and Kenya are becoming large producers which were not there in the past. Our exports, which should have shown growth, have not shown growth and our domestic consumption has also not shown the kind of growth that it should have shown. Then there is the problem of tea garden itself. In West Bengal, there is a different kind of problem and elsewhere there is a different kind of problem. The tea industry problem has been gone into by me along with the hon. MPs, where I held a separate meeting, from all teagrowing areas. The Government is seized of the matter. We have a tea package. We hope the tea industry will be able to benefit from it.

श्री दत्ता मेघे: महोदय, आपने आयात को कम करने के संबंध में कदम उठाया और डब्ल्यूटीओ में भी आपने बहुत अच्छा काम किया है और ऐसा करके आपने खास तौर से किसानों की बात को रखा। महोदय, मैं केवल एक ही प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूं, कपास के ऊपर आयात ड्यूटी जो 10 प्रतिशत है, वह 60 प्रतिशत क्यों नहीं है? आप कपास के ऊपर आयात ड्यूटी को और क्यों नहीं बढ़ाते? मेरा आपसे केवल यही एक प्रश्न है।

कपास के ऊपर 10 प्र॰श॰ ड्यूटी है और शुगर के ऊपर 60 प्रतिशत ड्यूटी है। मैं कपास उत्पादक क्षेत्र से आता हूं। विदर्भ के अन्दर कपास का उत्पादन करने वाले लोग आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि उन्हें उनके उत्पाद की पूरी कीमत नहीं मिल रही है। बाहर से कम माल आए, इसके लिए क्या आप आयात ड्यूटी को 10 प्रतिशत से 60 प्रतिशत करेंगे? किसानों के बारे में आप अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, ठीक है, अच्छा क्वेश्चन है।

श्री कमल नाथ: महोदय, कृषि मंत्रालय इसका पूरा मूल्यांकन करता है। मैं माननीय सदस्य की बात से सहमत हूं। वह जिस क्षेत्र की बात कर रहे हैं, उसी क्षेत्र से जुड़ा हुआ मेरा क्षेत्र भी है और जितने भी कपास के किसान हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: यह क्वेश्चन आपने ही तो इनसे नहीं करवाया है।

श्री कमल नाथ: सर, जब कपास की बात ये कर सकते हैं तो मैं भी कर सकता हूं, क्योंकि इस संबंध में जितने चिन्तित ये हैं, इनसे कम चिन्तित मैं भी नहीं हूं, बल्कि इनसे ज्यादा ही चिन्तित हूं। मुझे तो चुनाव लड़ना है। आप तो यहीं रहेंगे, लेकिन मुझे वहां पर जा कर चुनाव लड़ना पड़ेगा।

महोदय, बात यह है कि मुझे इस विषय में पूरी चिन्ता है और कृषि मंत्रालय यह मूल्यांकन करता है कि किस प्रकार के कपास का इम्पोर्ट करना आवश्यक है, जैसे लौंग स्टैपल यार्न। इसे इम्पोर्ट करना इसलिए आवश्यक है क्योंकि लौंग स्टैपल यार्न हमारे देश में नहीं होता है, इसलिए केवल उसी के इम्पोर्ट की बात है। जहां तक शॉर्ट स्टैपल यार्न की बात है, उसका तो हम निर्यात ही करते हैं और हमें निर्यात करना भी है। डब्ल्यूटीओ में खास तौर से कॉटन की सब्सिडी पर, कपास की सब्सिडी पर सबसे ज्यादा बहस हुई और उदाहरण के तौर पर मैंने छिंदवाड़ा के किसानों की बात वहां पर की।

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सर, इसका कुछ रिजल्ट भी तो निकलना चाहिए। शुगर के बारे में तो हमारे पवार साहब भी कहते हैं और आप भी कहते हैं, लेकिन कुछ हो नहीं रहा है, इसका क्या कारण है

श्री कमल नाथ: जी हां, आपकी बात सही है।

SHRI VIJAYARAGHAVAN: This is the main issue which is related to the farmers in this country. What is the reason for starvation deaths? Why are farmers committing suicides? These issues are related to it. Import of these items is increasing day by day. So far as cash crops like coffee, tea and spices are concerned, it is mentioned here that the imports are increasing every year. In the last three years, there is a lot of increase. That is why there is a sharp fall in the prices. I do not want to go into the details. But so far as cardamom is concerned, inferior quality of cardamom is coming to this country through illegal routes. That is why there is a sharp fall in the prices. I am very thankful to the hon. Minister for taking some initiative in regard to other items. So far as pepper is concerned, you have already called a meeting. The situation is improving. In the case of vanilla also the situation has improved a bit. But so far as cardamom is concerned, the situation is very bad. Will the Government take some initiatives to help the farmers and traders? The condition of cardamom industry is very bad. Last year, the price was Rs. 770/-. Day-before-yesterday, I was with the farmers. Now Rs. 180/- is the price for the best and superior quality of cardamom which is available. Kindly do something for them. What steps are you contemplating to help the farmers?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. member. Like I had a meeting with the hon. members on various plantations, I will be very happy to have a meeting.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Both on cardamom and cotton.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: .....with the hon. Members who come from the cardamom areas. Sir, it is a fact that, to some extent, irregular import is taking place through the free trade agreements which is affecting it; maybe, it is of bad quality. Whenever it is convenient to the hon. Members or whoever are concerned with cardamom, I will be very happy to have a meeting. We will work it out in that meeting. I will be very happy to hold such a meeting.

मेट्रो स्टेशनों पर स्वचालित लाइटें

*408. **श्री अबू आसिम आज़मी:** क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार मेट्रो स्टेशनों पर स्वचालित प्रकाश व्यवस्था करने पर विचार कर रही है जिसमें अंधेरा होते ही बिजली जल जाएगी और दिन निकलते ही अपने आप चली आएगी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ऐसी व्यवस्था सारे देश में करने पर विचार कर रही है और यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) यह व्यवस्था किस सीमा तक बिजली की चोरी को रोक सकेगी; और

(घ) यह व्यवस्था कब तक लागू कर दी जाएगी?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) जी हां, दिल्ली मेट्रो रेल कॉरपोरेशन के अनुसार मेट्रो स्टेशनों के लाइटों की स्वचालित स्विचिंग ऑन/ऑफ की व्यवस्था पूर्व-निर्धारित प्रकाश स्तर पर 20 एलिविटेड स्टेशनों पर तीसरी लाइन में की जा रही है, जो निमाणाधीन है और इन्हें दिसंबर, 2005 के अंत तक पूरा किया जाना है। रेल मंत्रालय के अनुसार अंधेरा होने पर लाइट को स्विच ऑन करने तथा सुबह होते ही इन्हें स्विच ऑफ करने के लिए विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर स्ट्रीट लाइट, यार्ड लाइट, सर्क्युलेटिंग एरिया में हाथ से (मैनुअल)करने तथा टाइम स्विच, आप्टिकल सेन्सर आदि जेसे वैद्युत उपस्करों का प्रयोग करते हुए करने की व्यवस्था है।

(ग) प्रश्न उत्पन्न नहीं होता।

(घ) दिल्ली मेट्रो की तीसरी लाइन के लिए दिसम्बर, 2005 तक।